GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Text Messages in Indian Languages
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Government has directed all the mobile manufacturers to enable their mobile users to text in all Indian languages, if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said direction is likely to be made operational;

(b) whether these manufacturers are unable to comply with the aforementioned direction and have sought extension in the given deadline, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) whether the dearth of BIS certified laboratories for language software testing is the reason for the said non-compliance with the Government's direction, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO.*338 FOR 09.08.2017
REGARDING TEXT MESSAGES IN INDIAN LANGUAGES
****

(a): The Government has mandated vide its Gazette notification No. S.O. 3509(E) dated 24th October 2016 that all the mobile handsets sold in the country shall have facility for inputting of text in English, Hindi and at least one additional Indian official language. The third language that is to be supported by mobile handsets shall be decided by phone manufacturer/supplier. Further, message readability in the mobile phones handset shall be provided for all 22 Indian official languages. The Order is presently scheduled to come into effect from 01.10.2017.

(b): For the Indian language support for mobile phone handsets as per IS 16333 (Part 3): 2016, the Order was scheduled to come into effect from 01.07.2017. However, mobile handset manufacturers sought extension in date of implementation of said order on account of non-availability of BIS recognised labs for testing the mobile phone handsets as per IS 16333 (Part 3): 2016, absence of BIS guidelines for implementation of the aforesaid standard and Notification of Mark etc. Accordingly, the date of coming into effect of the Order was extended till 01.10.2017.

(c): The Order was scheduled to come into effect from 01.07.2017 for mobile phone handsets as per IS 16333 (Part 3): 2016. However, due to various reasons mentioned above including non-availability/paucity of adequate number of BIS recognized labs for the testing as per IS 16333 (Part 3) 2016, the date of coming into effect of the aforesaid Order has been extended to 1st October, 2017. According to available information, the details of labs recognized by BIS and pending applications are as follows:

(i) Five laboratories have been recognised by Bureau of Indian Standards having testing facility as per IS 16333(Part 3):2016.

(ii) In addition, fifteen laboratories have applied to BIS for seeking recognition /inclusion as per IS 16333(Part 3):2016.

****